

CONCLUSION


In response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2003, requesting restriction and election of claims 1 – 6 drawn to a die or claims 7 – 10 drawn to a method of forming a tread, applicant cancels claims 7 – 10 without prejudice to presenting the non-elected claims in one or more divisional applications.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is however requested on the basis that the method and apparatus are so closely related that they are substantially the same invention. Both the method and the die are directed to the concept of providing a narrow strip of electrically conductive rubber in the outer tread of a tire to discharge static electricity generated by a vehicle. This is accomplished by the die of claims 1 – 6, wherein a chimney block is positioned in the die passage for the electrically nonconductive tread rubber and the electrically conductive tread rubber conveyed to the outer tread forming a narrow strip extending from the electrically conductive rubber of the lower layer to the surface of the tread. It is respectfully submitted that it is only by the method of claims 7 – 10 that the tread with a narrow strip of conductive rubber can be formed. Likewise using the method of claims 7 – 10 will only produce a tread with a narrow strip of conductive rubber as set forth in claims 1 – 6.

As such, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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